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TECHNICAL NOTE	Number	529
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TITLE:	FS3 Sounder Volume
ABSTRACT:	Results on an investigation into the FS3 sounder volume.

WPI Husky Computers Ltd. have received some questions asking why there appears to be a difference in the volume levels of the sounder between the FS/2 and the FS3.

The reason for the difference in the volume levels is that the sounder in the FS3 is fitted internally whereas the FS/2 sounder is fitted externally (behind the serial number label). Experience has shown that the externally mounted sounder has been subject to abuse in certain environments therefore when the FS3 was designed it was decided to address this problem.

Fitting the sounder internally enhances the ruggedness of the FS3 by transferring the device to a secure, environmentally sealed environment. This protects the sounder from external influences such as damage and corrosion. Also, fitting the sounder internally allows the FS3 to further enhance the environmental protection by reducing the areas of the case that require sealing thereby removing a potential failure.

A new sounder was chosen for the FS3, to compensate for the fact that the sounder is internally fitted a significantly louder sounder was selected. Some customers have observed that despite the louder sounder, the FS3 is still quieter than the FS/2. Upon completion of the investigation Husky concluded that there were no suitable sounders available that would enhance the volume level of the FS3.

Optimum volume for the FS3 sounder is achieved at a frequency of 2khz, this is the default setting used by the FS3. Adjusting the frequency value above or below this value will ultimately result in quieter sound. If the FS3 is being used in a particularly noisy environment then it is recommended that a visual confirmation/warning mechanism be used. This may take the form of a ‘good read’ LED where an external device is being used. Alternatively, if no external device is in use then a more visual signal is needed, such as a flashing confirmation/warning message displayed on the screen.

If more specific advice is required then contact Husky Technical Support who will advise on the best mechanism to fit the operating circumstances.

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